

Preliminary Amendment

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please delete the current abstract in its entirety and replace it with the following:

There is provided a method of encoding a data word. The method includes (a) scrambling a data word to generate a scrambled data word, and (b) encoding the scrambled data word so that a first occurrence of the scrambled data word is encoded to produce a first code word, and a subsequent occurrence of the scrambled data word is encoded to produce a second code word. The second code word is different from the first code word.